

This Week's News

IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday February 15th, 2026

Meet Megan EI5LA - Deputy Youth Officer

We are delighted to introduce Megan Lorenz EI5LA as both a relatively new IRTS committee member and as Deputy Youth Officer within the newly formed youth subcommittee. As our newest and youngest committee member, Megan brings a unique perspective alongside a contesting record that would put many of us to shame - and she's only getting started!

Licensed at 14, Megan began contesting at 15 and has since competed in close to 100 contests across CW, SSB and digital modes. She is recognised as one of the leading youth contesters worldwide, having already competed in one WRTC event, and has qualified to compete at WRTC 2026 as part of the Youth Team in the United Kingdom in July 2026. She has also proudly represented Ireland at YOTA Camp on four occasions. Megan's appointment reflects the society's commitment to long-term modernisation, sustainability, and talent retention. In her deputy youth officer role, she is already making a strong contribution to promoting amateur radio among young operators.

Limerick Clare Amateur Radio Club AGM

The Limerick Clare Amateur Radio Club report they held their annual general meeting for 2026 on Thursday February 12th. This well attended meeting discussed a range of issues of local and national interest. They also looked forward to celebrations for the 80th anniversary of the founding of the club throughout 2026. At the AGM the following officers and committee members were elected for the coming year: Chairman Dermot Gleeson EI2GT. Secretary Joe Ryan EI9HG, and Treasurer Harry O'Loughlin EI2KL. The committee also includes Michael Kingston EI2IX, Diarmuid O'Briain EI4LF, Liam Rainfort EI7DSB, and Gerry Gervin EI8CC.

News from Kerry Amateur Radio Group

Kerry Amateur Radio Group took part in the recent 145 Alive event. Net controller was Mike EI2LF, who operated on this occasion from his home QTH due to inclement weather. Unfortunately, this was reflected in the logbook consequently. There were 6 entries in the log from north of the peninsula and none from the south. The shielding mountains of his QTH was the cause of this. Due to adverse propagation, no log entries from outside the county were recorded. Despite this, the event a useful learning exercise and it proved that simplex VHF operations are dependent on location. They will put this learning experience to good use in the future, hopefully in the IRTS 2m Counties contest in April. The next KARG monthly meeting will be held on Saturday, the 28th of February 2026, at the Meadowlands Hotel Tralee, Co. Kerry. All are welcome.

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group EI2WRC

The 2026 Annual General Meeting of the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group EI2WRC will take place at 8.00 p.m. sharp on Monday the 23rd of February 2026 in the South East Technological University, Netlabs Research and Innovation Building, SETU West Campus, Carriganore, Waterford. The Eircode is X91 WR86. All members are asked to please attend. Any new members or anyone interested in radio communications in general or finding out more about

the group are welcome also. For more information about EI2WRC, their activities, and for contact details please see www.searg.ie

Galway Radio Experimenters Club Visit to Bletchley Park

Galway Radio Experimenters Club (GREC) are visiting the UK National Museum of Computing and the RSGB National Radio Centre in Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes, on Thursday, the 5th of March 2026. These are exceptional sites to visit if you have an interest in computing history and ham radio. They would like to extend an invite to any radio amateurs or SWLs who might like to join them there for guided tours of both centres. Please contact Enda Folan, EI6JZB on 086-8108118 for further details of travel and access.

Silent Key - Noel Lafferty EI9FM

We regret to report the passing of Noel Lafferty EI9FM on February 5th, 2026. Noel was an active member for many years of the Tirconail Amateu Radio Society, the forerunner to the Donegal Amateur Radio Club. We extend our deepest sympathies to his wife Margaret, sons Glyn and David, daughter Elaine, to his five grandchildren, and to the extended family circle. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam. May he rest in peace.

Patriot Radio Communications Club Bulletin Schedule

For operators with 4m band capabilities, make sure to listen out for Patriot Radio Communications Club EI7PRC on Sunday nights. Tonight, the IRTS news bulletin will also be transmitted at 8.30 p.m. on 70.350MHz covering the Limerick, Clare, and Tipperary regions. The reader will be David EI6IQB.

The Titanic Memorial

Carlos EA1PJ, who is president of a local section of the national association for amateur radio enthusiasts in Spain got in touch to alert us of a special Titanic memorial station. During April 2026, a memorial to the passengers and crew of the Titanic, and to the Titanic's telegraph operators will take the form of a special station with the call sign EG1912T. EG identifies Spain, 1912 is the year the ship sank, and T stands for Titanic. The event will take place from 00:00 UTC on April 10th, 2026 - the date on which the Titanic set sail from Southampton - until 23:59 on April 15th, 2026 - the date on which it sank. All modes will be used, but with special emphasis on telegraphy. All stations that contact EG1912T in CW will receive a special card for telegraphy contacts only.

Young Ladies Worldwide Award

The Young Ladies Worldwide Award is the first international radio project bringing together young ladies worldwide in a single event. The event takes place every year in March and lasts one week, from Monday, the 9th to Sunday, the 15th of March 2026. You can find out more at hamaward.cloud

Contest Calendar

The next UK and Ireland Contest Club contest in the 2025-26 series of 80m contests is on Wednesday 25th February 2026 at 20:00 UTC on CW.

Items for Inclusion in Next Week's Radio News

That is the news for this week. Thanks to everyone for sending items into the weekly IRTS radio news. They are very much appreciated and are a great way to update the rest of the community about activities. If you have any club events, activities, meetings, or other items of interest, you are very welcome to email the radio news editor Keith EI5IN via email to newsteam /at/ irts.ie with the details. These will be automatically forwarded to the IRTS radio and printed news services. The deadline each week is midnight on Thursdays.

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